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1	Chad McKinney 08 MAY 22 PM 2: 45 Pro Se	
2	6266 Madeline St Apt #61 SOUTHERN DISTRICT CHEEN CALL CAN	
3	San Diego, CA 92115 619-634-3566 BY: 0	v
4	THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOU	
5)	CIV. Case No.07-cv-2373
6	CHAD MCKINNEY, an individual,	FOR VIOLATION OF FEDERAL
)	FALSE CLAIMS ACT AND FOR
7))	VIOLATION OF THE THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT 1964 AND
8	.)	THE AMENDMENTS TO TITLE VII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF
9)	1991
10	Plaintiff,)	,
11)	RETALIATION- WRONGFUL
)	TERMINATION &
12) 	EMPLOYENT DISCRIMINATION CIVIL ACTION
13	v.)	
14	APOLLO GROUP INC., UNIVERSITY OF	PLAINTIFF'S REPLY TO DEFENDANT
15	PHOENIX, a Corporation, MECHELLE BONILLA, an Enrollment Manager at)	APRIL ALCORN'S MOTION TO TO DISMISS PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT
16	UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX, KYAN FLYNN, Director of Enrollment at	OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION FOR MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT
	UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX, APRIL)	TOR MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT
17	ALCORN, an Employee Relations) Consultant at UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX)	
18	CARLYN LINDSTEN, Associate Director of Enrollment at UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX	NO ORAL ARGUMENT, UNLESS REQUESTED BY THE COURT
19	Emoninent at ONIVERSITI OF THOENIX	
20	.)	Date: May 12, 2008 - Time: 11:00 a.m.
21		Courtroom: 4 Judge: Hon. William Q. Hayes
		w v
22		Demand for Trial by Jury Pursuant to U.S. Constitution, 7 th Amendment
23	Defendants	May 20, 2008
24		
- [1	_

PLAINTIFF'S REPLY TO DEFENDANT APRIL ALCORN'S MOTION TO DISMISS PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT, OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION FOR MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT

I.

INTRODUCTION

The Defendants' "Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint, or, in the Alternative, Motion for More Definite Statement and Motion to Set Aside Entry of Default" ("Motion to Dismiss") states that the Court should dismiss the Plaintiff's complaint on the following grounds: "(1) The Court lacks jurisdiction over Alcorn; (2) The Court lacks jurisdiction over Alcorn since she was never properly served in this matter; (2) The Complaint fails to state any claims upon which relief may be granted; (3) The Complaint fails to set forth a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the plaintiff is entitled to relief; and (4) The Complaint is so vague and ambiguous so as to require plaintiff to provide a more definite statement." The Plaintiff was forced to attain a copy of the Defendants' Motion to Dismiss by printing his own copy at the Clerk's office (please see Exhibit A, "Notice of "Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint, or in the Alternative, Motion for More Definite Statement" and Exhibit B, "April Alcorn's Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint, or in the Alternative, Motion for More Definite Statement".)

II.

THE COURT DOES NOT LACK JURISDICTION OVER APRIL ALCORN

Here, the Defendant April Alcorn alleges that "the Plaintiff did not serve Alcorn within the state. Alcorn did not consent to the Court's jurisdiction nor is she domiciled within California. Finally, Alcorn does not even come close to requiring the minimum contacts analysis required to demonstrate that the forum state has a sufficient relationship with her to make it reasonable

to requires her to defend the current action in California...Accordingly, the Court lacks personal jurisdiction over Alcorn, and the entry of default against her is void and should be set aside." This is not true. As CALDER V. JONES, 465 U.S. 783 (1984) found "The Due Process Clause permits personal jurisdiction over a defendant in any State with which the defendant has "certain minimum contacts . . . such that the maintenance of the suit does not offend 'traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice." International Shoe Co. v. Washington, 326 U.S. 310, 316. In judging minimum contacts, a court properly focuses on "the relationship among the defendant, the forum, and the litigation." Shaffer v. Heitner, 433 U.S. 186, 204. P. 788. Hence, jurisdiction over petitioners is therefore proper in California based on the "effects" of their Florida conduct in California. Pp. 788-789." This minimum contact and malicious conduct by the Defendant April Alcorn is demonstrated in the Plaintiff's "Reply to April Alcorn Motion to Set Aside Entry of Default" Exhibits A through I submitted on May 7, 2008.

III.

THE COURT DOES HAVE JURISDICTION OVER APRIL ALCORN AS SHE WAS
PROPERLY SERVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL
PROCEDURE

Here, the Defendant moves the Court set aside the Clerk's entry of default because the Plaintiff "did not properly serve Alcorn". This is not correct as is again demonstrated in Exhibit C, a sworn affidavit of service by Steve Ineich, A.C.P.S. Process Server registered in Maricopa County, dated February 27th, 2008, stating that he properly served the Defendant April Alcorn "by leaving ONE true copy(ies) of the above documents [SUMMONS, COMPLAINT & CONVER SHEET] with REBECCA SPRINGFIELD, SECURITY,

AUTHORIZED. WORK: UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX Described as female, age 50, CAUC, 5ft. 7in. tall, 150 lbs., BROWN eyes, BLACK hair."

IV.

THE COMPLAINT DOES STATE CLAIMS UPON WHICH RELIEF MAY BE GRANTED

The Complaint does state claims upon which relief may be granted, and are enumerated as seven causes of action listed on page 16 to page 17, in the section entitled "Legal Claims" of the Plaintiff's Original Complaint.

V.

THE COMPLAINT DOES SET FORTH A SHORT AND PLAIN STATEMENT OF EACH CLAIM SHOWING THAT THE PLAINTIFF IS ENTITLED TO RELIEF

The Complaint does set forth a short and plain statement of each claim showing that the Plaintiff is entitled to relief. The defendants' showing of malice is demonstrated by the manner in which the employee was fired (Please see pages 10-16, Statement of facts 19-42, of the Plaintiff's "Original Complaint", filed with the Court on the 19th of December, 2007.

VI.

THE COMPLAINT IS NOT VAGUE, AND A MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT IS NOT NEEDED

The Complaint is not vague, and a more definite statement is not needed. The Original Complaint should be comprehensible to any reasonable person as it describes in detail the Plaintiff's complaint with the Defendants. This is effectively and comprehensibly communicated in the Plaintiff's Original Complaint, pages 2 through 18, and is listed as the

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PLAINTIFF'S MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S REPLY TO APRIL ALCORN'S MOTION TO DISMISS PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT, OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION FOR MORE DEFINITE **STATEMENT**

I.

INTRODUCTION

The Defendants' "Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint, or, in the Alternative, Motion for More Definite Statement and Motion to Set Aside Entry of Default" ("Motion to Dismiss") states that the Court should dismiss the Plaintiff's complaint on the following grounds: "(1) The Court lacks jurisdiction over Alcorn; (2) The Court lacks jurisdiction over Alcorn since she was never properly served in this matter; (2) The Complaint fails to state any claims upon which relief may be granted; (3) The Complaint fails to set forth a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the plaintiff is entitled to relief; and (4) The Complaint is so vague and ambiguous so as to require plaintiff to provide a more definite statement." The Plaintiff was forced to attain a copy of the Defendants' Motion to Dismiss by printing his own copy at the Clerk's office (please see Exhibit A, "Notice of "Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint, or in the Alternative, Motion for More Definite Statement" and Exhibit B, "April Alcorn's Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint, or in the Alternative, Motion for More Definite Statement".)

II.

THE COURT DOES NOT LACK JURISDICTION OVER APRIL ALCORN

Here, the Defendant April Alcorn alleges that "the Plaintiff did not serve Alcorn within the state. Alcorn did not consent to the Court's jurisdiction nor is she domiciled within California. Finally, Alcorn does not even come close to requiring the minimum contacts analysis required

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to demonstrate that the forum state has a sufficient relationship with her to make it reasonable to requires her to defend the current action in California...Accordingly, the Court lacks personal jurisdiction over Alcorn, and the entry of default against her is void and should be set aside." This is not true. As CALDER V. JONES, 465 U.S. 783 (1984) found "The Due Process Clause permits personal jurisdiction over a defendant in any State with which the defendant has "certain minimum contacts . . . such that the maintenance of the suit does not offend 'traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice." International Shoe Co. v. Washington, 326 U.S. 310, 316. In judging minimum contacts, a court properly focuses on "the relationship among the defendant, the forum, and the litigation." Shaffer v. Heitner, 433 U.S. 186, 204. P. 788. Hence, jurisdiction over petitioners is therefore proper in California based on the "effects" of their Florida conduct in California. Pp. 788-789." This minimum contact and malicious conduct by the Defendant April Alcorn is demonstrated in the Plaintiff's "Reply to April Alcorn Motion to Set Aside Entry of Default" Exhibits A through I submitted on May 7, 2008.

III.

THE COURT DOES HAVE JURISDICTION OVER APRIL ALCORN AS SHE WAS PROPERLY SERVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

Here, the Defendant moves the Court set aside the Clerk's entry of default because the Plaintiff "did not properly serve Alcorn". This is not correct as is again demonstrated in Exhibit C, a sworn affidavit of service by Steve Ineich, A.C.P.S. Process Server registered in Maricopa County, dated February 27th, 2008, stating that he properly served the Defendant April Alcorn "by leaving ONE true copy(ies) of the above documents [SUMMONS,

COMPLAINT & CONVER SHEET] with REBECCA SPRINGFIELD, SECURITY, 1 2 AUTHORIZED. WORK: UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX Described as female, age 50, CAUC, 3 5ft. 7in. tall. 150 lbs.. BROWN eves, BLACK hair." 4 IV. 5 THE COMPLAINT DOES STATE CLAIMS UPON WHICH RELIEF MAY BE 6 7 **GRANTED** The Complaint does state claims upon which relief may be granted, and are enumerated as 8 9 seven causes of action listed on page 16 to page 17, in the section entitled "Legal Claims" of 10 the Plaintiff's Original Complaint. 11 V. THE COMPLAINT DOES SET FORTH A SHORT AND PLAIN STATEMENT OF 12 13 EACH CLAIM SHOWING THAT THE PLAINTIFF IS ENTITLED TO RELIEF The Complaint does set forth a short and plain statement of each claim showing that the 14 15 Plaintiff is entitled to relief. The defendants' showing of malice is demonstrated by the manner in which the employee was fired (Please see pages 10-16, Statement of facts 19-42, of 16 the Plaintiff's "Original Complaint", filed with the Court on the 19th of December, 2007. 17

THE COMPLAINT IS NOT VAGUE, AND A MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT IS NOT NEEDED

VI.

The Complaint is not vague, and a more definite statement is not needed. The Original Complaint should be comprehensible to any reasonable person as it describes in detail the Plaintiff's complaint with the Defendants. This is effectively and comprehensibly

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Chad McKinney, hereby certify that on, May 20, 2008, I served copies of the Plaintiff's Notice, Motion, Memorandums of Points and Authorities, and appendices to the Court and the following parties by way of United States Postal Service First Class Priority Mail:

Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. Attention of: Nathan W. Hicks 600 Anton Boulevard, Suite 1400. Costa Mesa, CA 92626

The United States District Court Southern District of California

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EXHIBIT A

Case 3:07-cv-02373-WQH-CAB Document 46 Filed 04/01/2008 Page 1 of 4 1 Christy D. Joseph (#136785) cioseph@swlaw.com Nathan W. Hicks (#236269) 2 nhicks@swlaw.com 3 SNELL & WILMER L.L.P. 600 Anton Boulevard, Suite 1400 4 Costa Mesa, CA 92626-7689 Telephone: (714) 427-7000 Facsimile: (714) 427-7799 5 6 Attorneys for Defendant April Alcorn 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT - SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF 9 **CALIFORNIA** 10 CHAD MCKINNEY, an individual, CASE NO. 07-CV-2373 WOH CAB 11 Plaintiff. APRIL ALCORN'S NOTICE OF 12 MOTION AND MOTION TO **DISMISS PLAINTIFF'S** v. Snell & Wilmer 13 COMPLAINT, OR, IN THE APOLLO GROUP, INC., UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX, a ALTERNATIVE, MOTION FOR MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT 14 Corporation, MECHELLE 15 BONILLA, an Enrollment Manager [FRCP 12(b)(2); 12(b)(5); 12(b)(6); at UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX, 12(e).1 16 KYAN FLYNN, Director of Enrollment at UNIVERSITY OF 17 PHOENIX, APRIL ALCORN, an Employees Relations Consultant at NO ORAL ARGUMENT, UNLESS 18 UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX, REQUESTED BY THE COURT CARLYN LINDSTEN, Associate 19 Director of Enrollment at Date: May 12, 2008 UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX Time: 11:00 a.m. 20 Courtroom: 4 Judge: Hon. William Q. Hayes **Defendants** 21 DATE OF FILING: December 19, 2007 22 23 TO PLAINTIFF AND HIS ATTORNEY(S) OF RECORD: 24 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on May 12, 2008 at 11:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard by the above entitled Court, located at 940 Front 25 26 Street, San Diego, California 92101, Courtroom 4, defendant April Alcorn 27 ("Alcorn") will and hereby does move the Court pursuant to Rules 12(b)(2); 28 USDC-SOUTHERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA 8657340.1 CASE NO. 07-CV-2373 WQH CAB ALCORN'S NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO DISMISS OR FOR MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT

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This motion is brought on the following grounds: (1) The Court lacks personal jurisdiction over Alcorn; (2) The Court lacks jurisdiction over Alcorn since she was never properly served in this matter; (3) The Complaint fails to state any claims upon which relief may be granted; (4) The Complaint fails to set forth a short and plain statement of the claim showing that McKinney is entitled to relief; and (5) The Complaint is so vague and ambiguous so as to require plaintiff to provide a more definite statement.

This motion is based on this notice of motion and motion, the memorandum of points and authorities, the declarations of Nathan W. Hicks, April Alcorn, and Rebecca Springfield filed herewith, and supporting exhibits thereto, the Court's files in this matter, all supporting documents, evidence and oral argument before this Court at the time of the hearing, and any other matter properly before the Court.

Date: March 31, 2008

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.

By: s/Nathan W. Hicks

Christy Joseph Nathan W. Hicks Attorneys for Defendar

Attorneys for Defendant April

Alcorn

8657340.1

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PROOF OF SERVICE

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EXHIBIT B

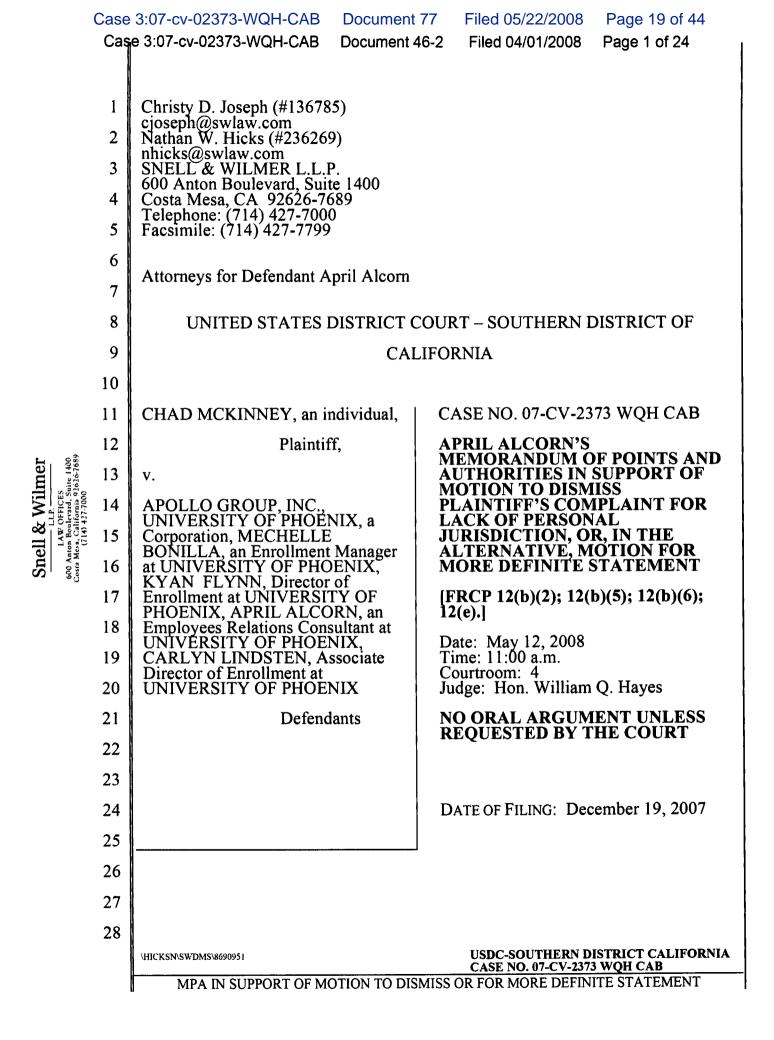


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I.

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff Chad McKinney ("McKinney"), a pro se litigant, originally brought the instant action against Apollo Group, Inc., (erroneously sued as Apollo Group, Inc., University of Phoenix, a Corporation), an Arizona corporation (hereafter, "Apollo"), and four individual defendants. Subsequently, McKinney has attempted to separately add the University of Phoenix, Inc. ("UOP") as a party to this complaint without properly amending his pleadings as is required under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("FRCP") Rule 15. Entries of default have been made against several defendants to include: Apollo, UOP, Mechelle Bonilla, Kyan Flynn and Carlyn Lindsten ("Moving Parties") and motions to set aside those entries of default and to dismiss McKinney's Complaint have already been filed.¹

On March 20, 2008, McKinney submitted a proof of return of service regarding Arizona resident, April Alcorn ("Alcorn"). McKinney's improper attempts at service and failure to state a claim argued in the Moving Parties' motions are equally applicable to the current motion regarding Alcorn, and McKinney's claims should be dismissed for these reasons alone. However, in addition to the rationale for dismissing the Complaint against the Moving Parties, the Court also lacks personal jurisdiction over Ms. Alcorn because she was not served within California, she is not domiciled in California, she has not consented to the Court's jurisdiction, and no nationwide personal jurisdiction exists.

Therefore, the Court should dismiss the Complaint for several separate reasons. First, as stated above, the Court lacks personal jurisdiction over Alcorn. Second, McKinney failed to properly serve Alcorn in accordance with Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("FRCP") because McKinney did not properly serve her via personal service, substitute service, mail service or service by

¹ Currently, the Court is set to hear motions regarding Apollo on April 7, 2008, Mechelle Bonilla, Kyan Flynn and Carlyn Lindsten on April 21, 2008, and UOP and April Alcorn on May 12, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

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States, 79 Fed. Appx. 992, 994, No. 03-15240, 2003 WL 22514528, at *1 (9th Cir. June 2, 2003). This procedural step is important not only to ensure due process, but also for jurisdictional reasons, because absent proper service, a court cannot obtain jurisdiction over the defendant.

Finally, McKinney's Complaint should be dismissed for failure to state a

publication. Although some procedural rules may be relaxed for pro se litigants, all

plaintiffs must follow the rules for service of the complaint. See Graham v. United

claim upon which relief can be granted. The caption of McKinney's Complaint states that it is "for violation of Federal False Claims Act and for violation of the Civil Rights Act 1964 and the amendments to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1991-Retliation-Wrongful Termination & Employment Discrimination Civil Action" and lists seven causes of action:

- 1. Retaliation pursuant to the False Claims Act § 3729;
- 2. Retaliation under Title VII;
- 3. Wrongful Termination;
- 4. False Imprisonment;
- 5. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress;
- 6. Defamation; and
- 7. Equal Pay.

The Complaint, however, contains no comprehensible recitation of facts or the basis for any of McKinney's purported claims, nor does it give fair notice of the purported acts or omissions, what actions are attributed to what defendants, how Alcorn's conduct damaged McKinney, or even what damage McKinney suffered.

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Accordingly, Alcorn brings this motion to dismiss McKinney's Complaint or to quash service of summons pursuant to FRCP Rule 12(b)(5) because the Complaint was improperly served. Alcorn also brings this motion to dismiss pursuant to FRCP Rule 12(b)(2) because the Court lacks personal jurisdiction over her. Additionally, Alcorn brings this motion pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6) because the Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted and fails to comply with FRCP Rule 8. In the alternative, if the Court declines to dismiss the Complaint for failure to state a claim and it finds that it can exert jurisdiction over Alcorn, or quashes service and requires McKinney to re-serve an amended Complaint, Alcorn requests that the Court order McKinney to file a more definite statement pursuant to FRCP Rule 12(e).

II.

THE COURT LACKS JURISDICTION OVER ALCORN (FRCP RULE 12(b)(2)).

Personal jurisdiction refers to the Court's power to render a judgment that either commands the defendant's personal obedience or impose obligations on the defendant that will be enforced by other courts. *Burnham v. Superior Court* (1990) 495 U.S. 604, 609-610; *Pennoyer v. Neff* (1877) 95 U.S. 714, 720-722. Unless jurisdiction is waived, a judgment rendered by a court lacking personal jurisdiction that purports to impose personal obligations on the defendant violates constitutional requirements of due process of law. *Id.*; *Ruhrgas AG v. Marathon Oil, Co.* (1999) 526 U.S. 574, 583.

Due process requires an adequate basis for jurisdiction over a party sought to be bound by the Court's judgment or decree. The three recognized bases for exercise of personal jurisdiction are:

- Service within the state;
- Domicile within the state; or

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• Consent.

Pennoyer v. Neff, supra at 722. Subsequent cases also recognize a "minimum contacts" standard with the forum state as an alternative basis for local jurisdiction. International Shoe Co. v. Washington (1945) 326 U.S. 310, 316.

Here, McKinney's return of service document demonstrates that he did not serve Alcorn within the state. [Declaration of Nathan Hicks In Support of Motion to Dismiss, ("Hicks Decl.") ¶ 2, Ex. A.] Alcorn did not consent to the Court's jurisdiction nor is she domiciled within California. [Declaration of April Alcorn In Support of Motion to Dismiss ("Alcorn Decl."), ¶ 1.] Finally, Alcorn does not even come close to requiring the minimum contacts analysis required to demonstrate that the forum state has a sufficient relationship with her to make it reasonable to require her to defend the current action in California. A non-resident individual is not subject to personal jurisdiction based upon the acts in the forum state undertaken in her corporate capacity. Club Car, Inc. v. Club Car (Quebec) Import, Inc. (11th Cir. 2004) 362 F3d 775, 784. Accordingly, the Court lacks personal jurisdiction over Alcorn, and McKinney's Complaint against her should be dismissed.

III.

THE COURT LACKS PERSONAL JURISDICTION OVER ALCORN BECAUSE MCKINNEY'S SERVICE WAS DEFECTIVE (FRCP 12(b)(2):

12(b)(5)).

FRCP Rule 4(e) provides in pertinent part:

Unless otherwise provided by federal law, service upon an individual from whom a waiver has not been obtained and filed, [...] may be effected in any judicial district of the United States:

- (1) pursuant to the law of the state in which the district court is located [...]; or
- (2) by delivering a copy of the summons and of the

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- 5 - USDC-SOUTHERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA CASE NO. 07-CV-2373 WQH CAB Case 3:07-cv-02373-WQH-CAB Document 46-2 Filed 04/01/2008 Page 11 of 24 complaint to the individual or by leaving copies thereof at the individual's dwelling house or usual place of abode with some person of suitable age and discretion then 1 2 residing therein or by delivering a copy of the summons and complaint to an agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process. 3 4 FRCP Rule 4(e); LSJ Investment Co., Inc. v. O.L.D., Inc. 167 F. 3d 320, 322-323 5 (6th Cir. 1999). To that end, California state law allows for service upon an 6 individual by delivering a copy of the summons and complaint: 7 Via personal delivery or an authorized agent for service of 8 process; 9 [or] 10 Substitute service coupled with mailing after a good faith effort at personal service has been attempted; 11 [or] 12 Mail service, coupled with acknowledgement of receipt; 13 [or] 14 Service by publication. 15 Cal. Code Civ. Proc. §§ 415.10, 415.20, 415.30, 415.50. 16 Thus, under both federal and state law, service of summons upon an 17 individual is only proper if made by personal service to the individual or their 18 authorized agent to accept service of process or by substitute service at the 19 individual's "dwelling house or usual place of abode." See id.; FRCP Rule 4(e)(2). 20 California, however, allows substitute service to be effected at the individual's 21 residence or place of employment as long as a good faith attempt at personal 22 service was made and the substitute service is coupled with a mailing of a copy of 23 the summons and complaint to the defendant. Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 415.20. 24 When a defendant challenges service of process, a plaintiff bears the burden of 25 showing that service is valid under Rule 4. Brockmeyer v. May, 383 F.3d 798, 800 26 (9th Cir. 2004); Belle, supra, citing Hirsh v. Blue Cross, Blue Shield, 800 F.2d 27 1474, 1477 (9th Cir. 1986). Moreover, if a plaintiff fails to serve a defendant in 28 USDC-SOUTHERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA \HICKSN\SWDMS\8690951 CASE NO. 07-CV-2373 WQH CAB MPA IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS OR FOR MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT

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accordance with Rule 4, the court lacks jurisdiction over that defendant. *Jackson v. Hayakawa*, 682 F.2d 1344, 1347 (9th Cir. 1982).

According to McKinney's proofs of return service, he attempted to serve Alcorn under California law through substitute service at her place of work. [Hicks Decl. ¶ 2, Ex. A.] McKinney failed to comply with the requirements of California law, and therefore FRCP Rule 4(e), because he did not demonstrate that he made a good faith attempt at personal service nor that he provided mail copies of the summons and complaint to Alcorn via pre-paid first class mail. Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 415.20(b). [Alcorn Decl., ¶ 2.] In fact, McKinney did not even provide substitute service to address where Alcorn works.² [Id.]

If the defendant challenges the method of service, the burden is on plaintiff to show that reasonable attempts were made to serve defendant personally before resorting to substitute service and why personal service could not be effected. Evartt v. Superior Court, 89 Cal. App. 3d 795, 801 (1979). Two or three attempts to personally serve defendant at a "proper place" ordinarily qualifies as "reasonable diligence" at attempting personal service. Espindola v. Nunez, 199 Cal. App. 3d 1389, 1392 (1988); Stafford v. Mach, 64 Cal. App. 4th 1174, 1182 (1998). Furthermore, McKinney did not even bother to mail a copy of the summons and Complaint to Alcorn as is required under California law. Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 415.20(b); Khourie, Crew & Jaeger v. Sabek, Inc., 220 Cal. App. 3d 1009, 1015 (1990).

Indeed, McKinney failed to even direct the summons and Complaint to any individual at all as required by FRCP Rule 4(a). Instead, McKinney simply dropped off an envelope to a security guard at an address nearly 3 miles away from

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Alcorn's work address is 4025 S. Riverpoint, Parkway, Phoenix, AZ. McKinney attempted to substitute serve a security guard located at 4615 East Elwood Street, Phoenix, AZ (nearly 3 miles away).

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where Alcorn worked³ and expected this to constitute sufficient service of process. This is unacceptable under California law and the Federal Rules.

While procedural rules may be relaxed for *pro se* litigants, even a *pro se* plaintiff must comply with the rules for service of process. *See Graham v. United States*, 79 Fed. Appx. 992, 994, No. 03-15240, 2003 WL 22514528, at *1 (9th Cir. June 2, 2003) *citing Hamilton v. Endell*, 981 F. 2d 1062, 1065 (9th Cir. 1992) (abrogated on other grounds by *Estate of Ford v. Ramierez-Palmer*, 301 F.3d 1043, 1045 (9th Cir. 2002).

Additionally, because McKinney did not properly serve Alcorn, the Court lacks personal jurisdiction over her, and the Complaint should be dismissed pursuant to FRCP Rules 12(b)(2) and 12(b)(5) for this reason also.

IV.

THE COURT SHOULD DISMISS THE COMPLAINT BECAUSE IT FAILS TO PROVIDE A BASIS UPON WHICH RELIEF CAN BE GRANTED.

A. The Court May Dismiss Patently Defective Complaints.

A motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim tests the legal sufficiency of the complaint. The Court may dismiss a complaint as a matter of law either for lack of a cognizable theory or the absence of sufficient fats alleged under a cognizable legal theory. Roberston v. Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., 749 F.2d 530, 534 (9th Cir. 1984). Thus, the Court should dismiss a claim if "it appears beyond doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claim which would entitle him to relief." Conley v. Gibson, 355 U.S. 41, 45-46 (1957). In making this determination, the Court must accept as true all material allegations in the complaint and draw all reasonable inferences in the plaintiff's favor. Usher v. City

It is also McKinney's burden to demonstrate that there was a "close connection" between the person being served and the person receiving substitute service on their behalf. See Judicial Counsel Comment to Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 415.20. Here, Alcorn did not even know the security guard that substitute service was attempted upon. [Alcorn Decl., ¶ 3.]; Declaration of Rebecca Springfield, ¶ 3.]

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of Los Angeles, 828 F.2d 556, 561 (9th Cir. 1987). While allegations of material fact are taken as true, however, a plaintiff may not rely on conclusory allegations and unwarranted inferences to defeat dismissal. See e.g., In re Syntex Corp. Sec's Litig., 95 F.3d 922, 926 (9th Cir. 1996); Holden v. Hagoplan, 978 F.2d 1115, 1121 (9th Cir. 1992). Also, the Court does not "assume the truth of legal conclusions merely because they are cast in the form of factual allegations." Western Min. Council v. Watt, 643 F.2d 618, 624 (9th Cir. 1981).

As explained more fully below, this Court should dismiss McKinney's Complaint because it fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

B. McKinney's Purported Claim Under the False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. § 3729) Provides No Basis Upon Which Relief Can Be Granted.

The Complaint also fails to distinguish among – or even clearly set out – the various claims being alleged. For example, the Complaint mentions an action for retaliation arising under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729 ("FCA") in McKinney's "Statement of the Case" and "Legal Claims," but no supporting facts even mentioning the FCA can be found in his "Statement of Facts." [Complaint, 2:9-11; 16:8-19.] In fact, McKinney's reference the FCA contains the following mystifying statements:

In 1986, Congress added provisions in 31 U.S.C Sec. 3730(h): 'Any employee who is discharged, demoted, suspended, threatened, harassed, or in any other manner discriminated against in the terms and conditions of employment by his or her employer because of lawful acts done by the employee on behalf of his employer or others in furtherance of an action under this section, including investigation for, initiation of, testimony for, or assistance in an action filed or to be filed under this section, shall be entitled to all relief necessary to make the employee whole.'

[Id., (emphasis added).]

McKinney does not reference anything he did "in furtherance of action under

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the only two references to Title VII are found in the "Statement of the Case" and "Legal Claims" and no supporting facts are found in his "Statement of Facts". [Id.] In fact, it cannot be determined from McKinney's unintelligible Complaint whether he is alleging disparate treatment, retaliation or both.⁴

Critically fatal to McKinney's Title VII claims against Alcorn is that only the employer, and not individuals, can be held liable for damages under Title VII. Accordingly, McKinney's Title VII claims against Alcorn fail, and no facts could be alleged to support a claim upon which relief could be granted.

Nevertheless, even without this support, McKinney's claims still fail. Title VII makes it unlawful for covered employers to hire or discharge any individual, or otherwise discriminate against any individual based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin ("protected class"). 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq. Yet, McKinney does not allege that he belongs to a class protected under Title VII. To succeed on a retaliation claim, McKinney must have supporting facts to allege: (1) he engaged in some protected conduct (protected by Title VII); (2) he suffered an adverse employment action; and (3) the adverse employment action was taken against him because of the protected activity. Trent v. Valley Elect. Assoc., 41 F.3d 524, 526 (9th Cir. 1994). McKinney does not aver any supporting facts that support his allegations of retaliation in violation of Title VII.

To establish a prima facie case of discriminatory treatment, McKinney must show supporting facts that: (1) he is a member of a protected class; (2) he was capable of performing his job; and (3) he was treated differently because of his protected class status. Pejic v. Hughs Helicopters, Inc., 840 F.2d 667, 672 (9th Cir. 1988). McKinney has alleged no facts in support of his claim of discrimination in violation of Title VII.

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⁴ It will be assumed that McKinney's Title VII claim is limited to retaliation since this is what he reported to the EEOC. [Hicks Decl., ¶ 3 Exs. B & C.]
⁵ As stated above, if McKinney is alleging discrimination, then he has not exhausted the required administrative remedies in order to properly plead this issue.

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Accordingly, McKinney has not properly alleged an action under Title VII upon which relief can be granted.

D. McKinney's Other Purported Claims Provide No Basis Upon Which Relief Can Be Granted.

Although the Complaint lists seven causes of action⁶ under the section entitled "Legal Claims," the remainder of the Complaint appears to consist of protracted "cut and paste" language⁷ that is internally inconsistent, ambiguous and fails to provide any support for the purported claims listed in the caption. Instead, McKinney simply lists five other causes of action with no factual support or legal basis.⁸

To the extent McKinney is asserting these or any other claims against Alcorn (which is, itself, unclear from the wording of the Complaint), McKinney has failed to describe these claims with any specificity or to set forth the required elements of those claims. Accordingly, Alcorn is unable to determine which claims are being alleged against her, and McKinney has failed to state any claim upon which relief can be granted.

V.

THE COURT SHOULD DISMISS THE COMPLAINT BECAUSE IT FAILS TO COMPLY WITH FRCP RULE 8.

FRCP Rule 8 requires a plaintiff to set forth "a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the [plaintiff] is entitled to relief." FRCP Rule 8(a)(2).

The same language is found in McKinney's EEOC complaint. [Hicks Decl., Exs.

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None of McKinney's causes of action distinguish what actions are purportedly attributable to what defendant.

McKinney simply lists: wrongful termination, false imprisonment, intentional infliction of emotional distress, defamation and equal pay under the remaining causes of action without any reference to a legal basis or how these causes of action apply to him.

Similarly, each claim must be "simple, concise, and direct." FRCP Rule 8(e)(2). These rules are designed to ensure that a complaint gives fair notice to defendants and states the elements of the claim plainly and succinctly. *Jones v. Cmty.*Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles, 733 F.2d 646, 649 (9th Cir. 1984).

When the complaint is written by a *pro se* litigant, these rules are relaxed and the complaint is held to a less stringent standard. *Eldridge v. Block*, 832 F.2d 1132, 1136 (9th Cir. 1987). Nevertheless, if a complaint contains nothing more than conclusory allegations, unsupported by any facts, it fails to state a claim under Rule 8. *Sherman v. Yakahi*, 549 F.2d 1287, 1290 (9th Cir. 1977); se also, *Barsella v. United States*, 135 F.R.D 64, 66 (S.D.N.Y 1991) (policy requiring courts to liberally construe *pro se* complaints "does not mandate that a court system sustain every *pro se* complaint even if it is incoherent, rambling, and unreadable"). Here, McKinney's complaint is incoherent, rambling, unreadable and fails to comply with Rule 8.

The Complaint fails to distinguish among – or even clearly set out – the various claims being alleged. And, despite containing a heading entitled "Statement of Facts," the body of the Complaint is prolix, confusing, and in many areas – meaningless. Further, it is not clear what relief McKinney seeks or how the allegations support the relief sought. The Complaint is simply a recitation of disconnected ideas wrapped with conclusory allegations seeking some sort of unintelligible relief. The Complaint, therefore, fails to comply with Rule 8 and should be dismissed under FRCP Rule 12(b)(6) for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

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⁹ See Part IV above for a further discussion of the deficiencies in McKinney's claims.

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VI.

THE COURT SHOULD DISMISS MCKINNEY'S COMPLAINT WITH PREJUDICE.

The factors a court may consider in determining whether to dismiss a complaint with prejudice under FRCP Rule 41(b) include: (1) the plaintiff's status as a pro se litigant; (2) the burden on the defendants and their right to be free from costly and harassing litigation; (3) the burden confusing and prolix complaints place on the court system; (4) the strength of plaintiff's case; and, (5) the feasibility of less drastic alternatives, such as allowing further amendment. See, e.g., McHenry v. Renne, 84 F.3d 1172, 1179-1180 (9th Cir. 1996); Nevijel v. North Coast Life Ins. Co., 651 F.2d 671, 674-675 (9th Cir. 1981); Von Poppenheim v. Portland Boxing and Wrestling Commission, 442 F.2d 1047, 1053 (9th Cir. 1971), cert. denied, 404 U.S. 1039 (1972). Under the circumstances of this dispute, these factors heavily favor dismissal with prejudice.

McKinney has filed a protracted, rambling, incomprehensible Complaint that utterly fails to allege any facts to support any of his claims, and that is not even clear as to which claims are being asserted, and against which defendants.

McKinney cannot assert anything in an amended pleading that will give merit to his baseless claims. As such, the Court should dismiss McKinney's Complaint with prejudice pursuant to FRCP Rule 41(b).

VII.

ALTERNATIVELY, THE COURT SHOULD REQUIRE MCKINNEY TO FILE A MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT UNDER FRCP RULE 12(E).

If the Court declines to dismiss the Complaint, and either quashes service and requires McKinney to re-serve the Complaint or finds that service of process was sufficient under the FRCP and that the Court has jurisdiction over Alcorn, the Court should require McKinney to file a more definite statement.

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MPA IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS OR FOR MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT

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FRCP Rule 12(e) protects defendants from having to guess at the meaning of complaints like the one brought by McKinney:

If a pleading to which a responsive pleading is permitted is so vague or ambiguous that a party cannot reasonably be required to frame a responsive pleading, the party may move for a more definite statement before interposing a responsive pleading.

FRCP Rule 12(e).

A complaint may state a claim for relief, but may still be so vague and ambiguous as to require a plaintiff to provide a more definite statement. See Cellars v. Pacific Coast Packaging, Inc., 189 F.R.D. 575, 578 (N.D. Cal. 1981); Famolare, Inc. v. Edison Bros. Stores, Inc., 525 F. Supp. 940, 949 (E.D. Cal. 1981). When claims, such as those made by McKinney are so indefinite that the defendant cannot ascertain the nature of the claim being asserted, a defendant cannot reasonably be expected to frame a proper response. Id.

A motion for a more definite statement is appropriate where allegations do not comply with the pleading requirements identified in FRCP Rule 8. 2 James Wm. Moore, et al., Moore's Federal Practice, 12.36[1] (3d ed. 2000). Under Rule 8, a pleading must give "fair notice on the grounds for the various claims" and "requires more than empty boilerplate." *Gen-Probe, Inc. v. Amoco Corp.*, 926 F. Supp. 948, 961 (S.D. Cal. 1988); *see also Conley v. Gibson*, 355 U.S. 41, 47 (1957). Therefore, if a pleading is not "clear enough to provide the defendant with a sufficient basis to frame a responsive pleading" a more definite statement is appropriate. *Sec. Dynamics Techs., Inc. v. Active Card Networks, Inc.*, No. 95-20870SW, 1996 WL 263648, at *1 (N.D. Cal. May 13, 1996).

Here, for the reasons set forth above, McKinney's Complaint is so ambiguous and unintelligible that Alcorn cannot reasonably be required to frame a responsive pleading. Therefore, if the Court does not grant the Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the Court should order McKinney to file a more definite statement.

- 16 - USDC-SOUTHERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA CASE NO. 07-CV-2373 WQH CAB Case 3:07-cv-02373-WQH-CAB Document 46-2 Filed 04/01/2008 Page 22 of 24 1 VIII. 2 **CONCLUSION** 3 For the reasons stated above, the Ms. Alcorn respectfully requests that the Court dismiss McKinney's Complaint against her with prejudice. In the alternative, 4 if the Court finds that it has jurisdiction over Ms. Alcorn and the Court declines to 5 dismiss the Complaint, she respectfully requests that the Court require McKinney to 6 7 file a more definite statement. 8 9 Date: March 31, 2008 SNELL & WILMER L.L.P. 10 By: s/Nathan Hicks Christy Joseph 11 Nathan W. Hicks 12 Attorneys for Defendant April Alcorn 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 USDC-SOUTHERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA CASE NO. 07-CV-2373 WQH CAB - 17 -\HICKSN\SWDMS\8690951 MPA IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS OR FOR MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT

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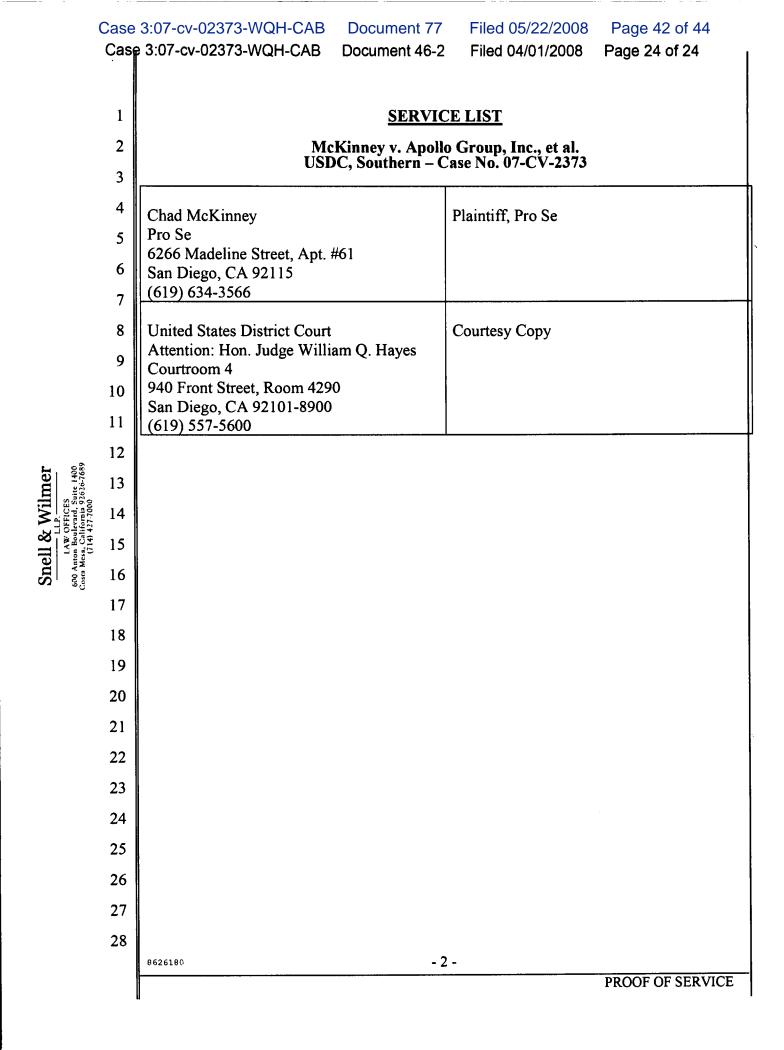


EXHIBIT C

CHAD MCKINNEY 6266 MADELINE STREET #61 SAN DIEGO CA 92115-5630 (619) 634-3566 Bar#

> IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

CHAD MCKINNEY

Plaintiff

NO. 07CV2373WQHCAB

vs.

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

APOLLO GROUP INC., ET AL

Defendant

, being duly sworn, states: that he/she is duly qualified to serve process STEVE INEICH, A.C.P.S. in this cause, having been so appointed by the court, that he/she received the following document(s) in this action:

SUMMONS, COMPLAINT & COVER SHEET

from CHAD MCKINNEY on 02/13/08, attorney(s) for the PLAINTIFF; that he/she personally served the same upon the party/parties in the manner named below:

NAME: APRIL ALCORN

DATE & TIME: 02/26/08 1:33 PM

PLACE :

4615 EAST ELWOOD STREET PHOENIX, AZ 85040

MANNER: By leaving ONE true copy(ies) of the above documents with REBECCA SPRINGFIELD,

SECURITY, AUTHORIZED.

WORK: UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX

Described as female, age 50, CAUC, 5ft. 7in. tall, 1501)s.

BROWN eyes, BLACK hair,

Statement of Costs

\$ 16.00
\$ 25.00
\$ 11.00
\$.00
\$ 52.00

STEVE INEICH, A.C.P.S. Process Server registered in MARICOPA County

Subscribed and sworn to before me

OFFIGIA PATRICIA PENROD NOTARY PUBLIC - State of Arizona MARICOPA COUNTY My Comm. Expires June 14, 2009

ne: Ferros

Frontier Private Process Service 1145 West McDowell Road Phoenix, AZ 85007 (602) 258-0022 10102 10802285-01 4783